

# **Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education**

## **Open Session Minutes**

**June 10, 2013**

**The open session of the Rhode Island Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education was called to order at 8:49 am on the above date in the Conference Room 401 of the Department of Health, Three Capitol Hill, Providence, RI pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Open Meetings Law, so called, and other applicable sections of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island.**

### **Members Present:**

**David Becker**

**Diane Blier**

**Michelle Cahill**

**Carol Cairns**

**Linda Damon**

**Marie Jean**

**Paggy Matteson**

**Maria Pezzillo**

**Anne Tierney**

**Kristen Young**

**Adele Palazzo**

### **Members Absent:**

**Jessica Brier**

**Manuela Raposo**

**Linda Twardowski**

**Department of Health Members Present:**

**Normand J. Laliberte Jr.**

**Donna Costantino**

**Donna Valletta**

**1. Establishment of a Quorum:**

**President Matteson called meeting o order at 8:49 am. A quorum was established.**

**2. Presentation of the Minutes:**

**The minutes for the May 13th meeting are not ready for review and approval by the Board. The minutes will be ready for the July Board meeting pursuant to RI General Laws 42-46-7 (b). Motion: Linda Damon and 2nd: Michelle Cahill**

**3. President's Report:**

**The President spoke on the follow:**

- Weekly Briefings sent electronically to all Board members**
- 3 accrediting Boards for Nursing Schools**
- Asking the Governor's Wife to be the introductory speaker for the incoming National Convention. The effort was being conducted through Director Fine's Office.**
- Push to have Advance Practice Nurse's in Nursys.**
- The Rhode Island Board of Education has a Committee for Nursing**

**School education and the president believes that the Board should have representation.**

**Comments from the Public:**

**A report from RISNA brought the Board up to date on Legislation related to a Model Bill for Advance Practice Nursing. In addition it was mentioned that many nurses do not understand the difference between a statute and a regulation and the process of a Bill becoming law. September 27 Legislation 101 forum given by RISNA.**

**Rhode Island Action Coalition reported on the Nurse Residency Program to begin September 2013. Applications closed July 2013. HARI will distribute the Nursys information.**

**Lincoln Technical reported that they are graduating 23 LPNs. NLNAC recommended that the School reduce the clinical hours.**

**4. Director's Report:**

**The Acting Director introduced himself and gave a short background of his Nursing career. He also passed out information on Nursys.**

**Donna Costantino mentioned there were several applicants for the Director's position. The interview questions were being developed and not yet finalized.**

**5. Motion was made to close the Open Session at 9:29 am and to move to Executive Session by Michelle Cahill and 2nd by Linda Damon.**

**Pursuant to 42-46-4 and 42-46-5 of the Rhode Island General Laws for discussion of Job performance, character, physical or mental health of applicants for licensure and licensees and for discussion of investigatory proceedings relating to misconduct by applicants**

licensure and licensees, and investigatory proceedings regarding allegations of civil or criminal misconduct. Said individuals have been notified in writing that they may request that the discussion be held at an open meeting.

6. Motion to return to open session by Anne Tierney and 2nd by Marie Jean. 10:08 am

Katherine Warren, Esq. was the hearing officer. Attorney Jennifer Sternick represented the Department of Health. The Respondents are Elizabeth Dyer and Joslin Leasca both Nurse Practitioners. Attorney Jim Howe represented them. Attorney Howe stated he felt that the case against his clients was beyond the 6-month requirement by statute. He requested that the board hold off on hearing these cases till the Advance Practice Board has a chance to hear the case at their next meeting. There was no objection from Ms. Sternick.

A motion to go into Executive Session by David Becker and 2nd by Diane Blier

7. Summary Suspension Hearing Called to order at 11:15 am. Sylvester C. Sviokla III, MD appeared to testify in regards to Renee Pepin. Attorney Sternick ask the physician to introduce himself. He spoke about Ms. Pepin's treatment at his clinic for the case at hand and stated the respondent was not truthful with the treating staff about medication usage and her pass problems. The physician felt he could not recommend her return to work until further treatment and full cooperation from the respondent. His statement ended at 11:18 am.

**Ms. Pepin showed up at 11:39 am for her 11:00 am hearing. Physician Sviokla was excused. Ms. Pepin was given a copy of the physician's report and she had no questions or comments. Ms. Pepin stated the statements from Fatima Hospital were not accurate. She never said she saw flying saucers or took picture on her phone of the alleged flying saucers. She claimed she did all of her assessments and treatments as required and Fatima Hospital was wrong saying she did not complete her assignment. Psychiatric Report was sealed.**

**Motion to go into Executive Session by Maria Peezzillo and 2nd David Becker.**

**Return to Open Session for the presentation of final actions, vote to seal minutes of the executive Session pursuant too section 42-46-4, 42-46-5 and 42-46-7 of the Rhode Island General Laws.**

**Adjournment 4:15 pm**